

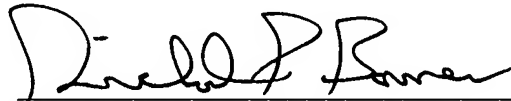
II. Remarks

Consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 21, and 27 are independent.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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